

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3556
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY PAK
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have noticed the recent statement of the Pakistan Deputy Foreign Minister that Islamabad could consider using nuclear weapons first, if attacked by conventional weapons; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government remains committed to a policy of 'no-first-use' and to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.